ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for flexibly filtering upstream scheduling messages in a communication system is described. The inventive method and apparatus uses software to rapidly filter a MAP message comprising a plurality of information elements. In accordance with the inventive method, a communication device inputs a MAP message and outputs a filtered MAP message comprising upstream transmission information relevant only to the communication device. The communication device stores data relevant to its upstream transmit opportunities. This data is derived from information elements that are associated with the communication device. In one embodiment, the communication device stores a transmit time. In another embodiment, the communication device stores a transmit time and a transmit duration. In yet another embodiment, the communication device stores a transmit time, a transmit duration and an IUC.